

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

 DOTE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 DRC-01 /053 W

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R 131848Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6873

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 2199

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR XL

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: BRADSHAW COMMENTS ON CARICOM PLANS FOR LIAT

REF: BRIDGETOWN 1564 AND PREVIOUS

1. I ENCOUNTERED ST. KITTS' PREMIER ROBERT BRADSHAW AT PIARCO AIRPORT SEPTEMBER 12, AND HE PAID A CALL ON ME SEPTEMBER 13. BRADSHAW SAID HE HAD COME TO TRINIDAD, AT THE BEHEST OF GOTT FINANCE MINISTER GEORGE CHANBERS, IN ORDER TO DISCUSS WITH THE GOTT SCHEMES TO PROVIDE INTRA-REGIONAL SHORT HAUL AIR SERVICE UPON LIAT'S EXPECTED DEMISE. FOLLOWING BRADSHAW'S TALKS, GOTT MINISTER IN MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CUTHBERT JOSEPH UNEXPECTEDLY FLEW TO ANTIGUA EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 12 FOR TALKS ON THE SAME SUBJECT.

2. BRADSHAW SAID THAT RATHER THAN BUY OUT LIAT, REGIONAL OFFICIALS PREFERRED THE ALTERNATIVE OF FORMING A COMPLETELY NEW AIRLINE WHICH WOULD TAKE OVER SOME OF LIAT'S ASSETS. HE INDICATED THAT AIR CANADA WOULD PROBABLY BE GIVEN A MANAGEMENT CONTRACT TO RUN THE NEW AIRLINE, NOTING THAT MOST OF THE GOVERNMENTS VIEW THE AIR CANADA AIR JAMAICA RELATIONSHIP AS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL. BRADSHAW ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WAS ALSO INTEREST IN EXPLORING SOME SORT OF LINK-UP WITH EASTERN FOR THE NEW AIRLINE. IN PASSING, HE SAID THAT ST. KITTS IS
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HIGHLY PLEASED WITH SERVICE NOW PROVIDED BY PUERTO RICO-BASED

PRINAIR, AND THAT HE IS URGING ANTIGUA'S PREMIER COMPTON TO PERMIT PRINAIR TO SERVE ANTIGUA.

3. COMMENT: IT SEEMS OBVIOUS THAT THE VITAL INGREDIENT TO BE PROVIDED BY TRINIDAD TO THE NEW AIRLINE IS MONEY. ALTHOUGH BRADSHAW MADE NO COMMENT THAT AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED--OR IS EVEN CLOSE--WITH THE GOTT, HE WAS CLEARLY OPTIMISTIC THAT A WAY WILL BE FOUND TO ESTABLISH A REGIONAL FEEDER AIRLINE TO REPLACE LIAT.
MILLER

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